



Term 3, 2026

Year 6 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 3. We are halfway through the year already, and it certainly feels like the months are racing past. We hope you and your family have had a restful holiday and are ready for the term ahead. Term 3 at Southwell School is always a particularly busy and exciting one as the school prepares to showcase itself with the Opera. This year's show Annie, is shaping up to be a fantastic show.

Each week, the School has a theme that focuses on developing our character and our competencies. We begin with a message in Chapel on Monday, and throughout the week, we can use the school diary as a focal point for further discussion. We further discuss the theme on Wednesday at Assembly with students sharing their thoughts, and we will often display examples of great role models.

The themes for this coming Term are:

Week 1 **Being a Team Player**

Week 2 **Being Courteous**

Week 3 **Being Encouraging**

Week 4 **Being Optimistic**

Week 5 **Being Purposeful**

Week 6 **Being Reflective**

Week 7 **Being Tolerant**

Week 8 **Being Reliable**

Week 9 **Thinking Positively**

In Year 6 we have an exciting central idea for Term 3. “Past civilisations shape present day systems and technologies.” We are calling this The Legacy of Ancient Systems. Students will be exploring the following lines of inquiry: The connection between the innovations of past civilizations and our present-day lives (Connection) Systems, practices and technologies are developed in response to needs and challenges (Function) The adaptation of past technologies by modern societies and the implications for our future. (Causation) The students will use creativity to express a matter, idea, or message which is important to them.



School Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for the Term 3 School Calendar. Please note this is updated regularly.

Week Ahead

It is important that you look out for The Week Ahead in your inbox every Friday and read it carefully, as it contains important information about what is happening when.

Learning Conferences - Week 3, Term 3

The purpose of this Learning Conference is for your child to share their learning and goals with you. You may also wish to review your child's report. With this in mind, please bring your child's report with you. Further details regarding booking a learning conference will be emailed shortly.

Please note:

- There will be no after school sport practices during this week.
- All Year 3-8 children attend their conferences.
- Conferences are 10 minutes. If you would like to spend some time with your child's teacher without your child present, please mention this to the teacher at the beginning of the interview.
- Friday bookings are for Boarding families only.



Maths and Specialist Learning Conferences - Week 6, Term 3

These conferences take place in Week 6 with Specialist and Maths Teachers in the Performing Arts Centre. These meetings are a brief 5 minute opportunity to have a catch-up

regarding your child's learning. If you feel you will need more than 5 minutes, please contact your child's teacher by email to arrange an alternative time.

ICAS Competitions

Southwell students in Years 4-8 have the opportunity to participate in the 2026 ICAS Competitions. Information and registration details for ICAS were emailed out mid-last term and throughout the holidays. Registrations have now closed. For those who have registered, ICAS competitions are scheduled to take place Weeks 4-6, Term 3.

House Chapel Service

This Term we will be celebrating All Hallows Chapel's Centenary. We will not be holding our regular House Chapel Service this term; instead, all families are invited to attend a special service to commemorate this occasion on Wednesday, 2 September at 6pm.

Opera - Annie

Term 3 is an exciting time for many of our students who are involved in the Opera. This is an amazing event and takes great commitment and focus. Students need to prioritise their well-being during this time. We strongly recommend that they pay particular attention to eating well, sleeping well, and exercising well. We also recommend to our Year 6's that they talk to their teachers about how to balance their commitments, if they need support.

Learning in Year 6

Writing - Year 6 Teachers

In Writing we will continue to use different stimuli to encourage and inspire our writing and work on individual goals.

We are looking at the structure and features of different types of writing that support our Big Idea of 'The Legacy of Ancient Systems' in Term 3, such as Information Reports, Explanations, and Recounts of events.

Reading - Year 6 Teachers

In Reading, we are continuing to look at reading for enjoyment, finding books that are a good fit, and exploring a range of different genres. In teaching sessions, the focus is on asking questions, activating prior knowledge, making connections, and inferencing, while understanding the purpose of the text.



Mathematics - Year 6 Teachers, Mr Pickering

In Mathematics, students are looking at the strands of Measurement, Geometry, Statistics, and Algebra. Emphasis is placed on problem-solving in real word application. Mathletics will continue to be used to consolidate class learning.

Science – Mrs. Steffert

This term in Science, Year 6 students will explore how simple machines make work easier by linking the interventions used by ancient civilisations, such as ramps, levers, and pulleys, to modern technology. Alongside these hands-on investigations, students will develop their skills as young scientists by learning how to conduct a fair test. Using the scientific method, they will isolate variables, make predictions, and learn how to structure and write a formal scientific report based on their discoveries.

Technology – Mrs Bradding



In Food Technology this term, the Year 6 students will continue to follow recipes, learning basic food preparation and cooking skills. In keeping with their class inquiry, the children will be exploring the food eaten and preserved by Ancient Civilisations. This will have a particular focus on grains and how they have changed with time, modern systems, and processing techniques.

Christian Education – Reverend Pickering

In class this term, students will be examining Jesus' miracles, understood as divine "artefacts," revealing the values, power, and transformative impact of God's Kingdom, offering timeless insights for our own lives. The class will continue to participate in an opening picture reflection and devotional, showing the importance of routine and reflection in the midst of daily life.

Te Reo Maaori – Whaea Whetu

This term, students are connecting their study of ancient civilisations with Te Reo Maaori through language patterns. Students will practice vocabulary related to lineage (*whakapapa*), geography (*turangawaewae*), and timekeeping (*te waa*). This integrated approach allows students to build their everyday Maaori language skills while discovering how different historical cultures viewed the world around them.

Music – Mrs McIntyre

Students will complete a unit on Bucket Drumming. They will recap the basic rhythms of ta, ti-ti, za, tika-tika from Years 4 and 5, and learn some more complex rhythms also (ti-tika,

tika-ti, triplet, ti rest). Students will perform these rhythms through the use of popular songs and, at the end of the unit, compose their own bucket drumming pieces.

Physical Education - Miss Lovell and Classroom teachers



IRox

In the iROX unit, students tackle a modified fitness challenge where teamwork is the key to success. They will work together to power through tough workout stations, learning how to motivate their teammates to the finish line. Beyond the workout, students also step up as officials, taking on the responsibility of leading the event, keeping the competition fair, and ensuring everyone stays safe.

Empty the tank (Cross Country)

This unit is designed to empower students to achieve personal growth, regardless of their individual fitness abilities, working towards our school cross country.

The Engine Room (Fitness)

This unit encourages students to explore different training methods and discover what it means to “exercise well”. Through a range of engaging training experiences, students will be inspired to find ways of exercising that motivate them and develop intrinsic motivation to challenge themselves.

Athletics

The aim of the unit is for students to participate in a variety of field and track events. Through video, peer and teacher feedback, students are able to implement this knowledge to improve their performance.

Art - Mrs Wing

Year 6 students are exploring the elements of art and the techniques and tools artists use to bring their ideas to life. Each lesson introduces a new technique, using a range of materials to build their creative skills. Their work will be inspired by the creative world of **Dr. Seuss**, and students will experiment with colour, pattern, line, and shape while developing their own imaginative artistic style.

Pottery – Mrs Wathen

In Pottery, students are learning to use routines and procedures in the room. This term, they will cover basic techniques, including pinch pots, joining, form, mark making, and glazing. Students will explore the pottery techniques necessary to create



artworks inspired by the whimsical world of **Dr. Seuss**, experimenting with imaginative forms, playful details, and creative expression. An introduction to the extruder and slab roller will take place early in the term.

Library – Mrs Huggins

In the Library, we will be continuing to promote engaging literature, encourage critical thinking, and reinforce inquiry skills. We will continue to upskill the students in their use of our Library Management System in order to help them to source information for inquiry. Learners will be encouraged to spend quality time with their book of choice and to work towards a personal choice reading goal. Towards the end of the term, we will be encouraging students to take a reading risk and step outside their comfort zone. Teachers can choose to request reinforcement of specific skills if it suits their classroom programme.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the classroom teacher. We look forward to seeing you at the Student Lead Learning Conferences in Week 3 of the term.

Thank you again for your support.

Darren Bryan
Paige Walker
Liz Donald
Laurene Merritt

Year 6 Teachers